

VENONA

~~TOP SECRET~~



USSR

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8TH MESSAGE

SAFEGUARDING OF THE AGENT NETWORK IN VIEW OF THE
NEWS FROM [C] CANADA (1945)

From: MOSCOW

To: LONDON

No: 47 ✓

18th September 1945

To BOB[i].

As I am thinking of relieving you of the burden of meetings with the valuable agent network[AGENTURA] thus ensuring that it is protected from compromise (this is because of "S's"[ii] information about the disruption of our work [C] in CANADA[iii],) [3 groups unrecovered] and the intensification of counter-measures against us which is being carried out in the ISLANDS (ESTRADA)[iv]), do you not consider that it would be advisable to transfer "JOHNSON[DZBONSON]"[v] to "BORIS'[vi] control and leave you only with "STANLEY(STENLI)"[vii] and "HICKS[HICKS]"[viii]?[a]

Report how "BORIS" is coping with the English language, how he is familiarising himself with the conditions in the town, whether he is sufficiently careful, whether he can run "JOHNSON" with authority[b] and so on. Until further notice do not, under any circumstances, increase the number of meetings with "STANLEY", "JOHNSON" or "HICKS".

No. 684
17th September

VIKTOR[ix]

DISTRIBUTION:

[Continued overleaf]

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- Note: [a] The first sentence of this translation is a close rendering of the original Russian. The contradiction between the proposal to relieve BOB of the burden of meetings with the agent network and yet to leave him with two out of three of the agents, is evidently due to careless drafting by VIKTOR. He probably intended saying: "As I am thinking of lightening your burden by reducing the number of your meetings"
- [b] Literally: "...whether he can be an authoritative case officer [БИОВОДИТЕЛ'] or "JOHNSON"..."
- Comments: [i] BOB: Unidentified LONDON addressee.
- [ii] S: Presumably refers to STANLEY, i.e. R.A.R. PHILBY. See MOSCOW-LONDON No. 46 of 17th September 1945 (3/NRP/T729) with its association of STANLEY and events in CANADA.
- [iii] CANADA: GOZEMKO defected in OTTAWA on 5th September 1945.
- [iv] ISLANDS: In the singular ISLAND refers to the U.K. It is not clear whether the plural form has the same meaning or a wider meaning.
- [v] JOHNSON: Unidentified covername.
- [vi] DORIS: Unidentified covername.
- [vii] STANLEY: R.A.R. PHILBY.
- [viii] NICKS: Probably G.P. de M. BURGESS.
- [ix] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.

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